

APPROVED

Stamford Access 4 All, Mayor's Committee
Meeting Date: 9/10/15, 12:30 pm
Location: Operations Conference Room, 10th Floor

Attending: F. Mercede, P. Magalnick, K. Burbank, M. Molgano, E. Bromley, A. LiVolsi, J. Ruotolo, L. Ross, E. Orgera, P. Zeiss, M. Levine, F. Fedele, L. Carlson, M. Katcher, R. Rios Ninos

M I N U T E S

1. FJ welcomed everyone, and the meeting was called to order at 12:35 pm.
2. Minutes from 7/9/15 meeting were reviewed. Lolli motioned to approve and Libby seconded. Minutes unanimously approved without changes.
3. FJ introduced two newest members of A4A Committee: Renzo Rios Ninos is a life-long Stamford resident and recent graduate of the Perkins School for the Blind. Libby Carlson has replaced Tom Dec on the Mayor's staff. The Committee welcomed both and looks forward to their contributions. Mike Molgano asked them to specifically evaluate the website and see what can be done to enhance its value to residents.
4. Ernie reported on the Committee's work with Eileen Heaphy, of the Board of Representatives' Legislative & Rules Committee, to assist with updating the city's café ordinance. Several A4A Committee members have conducted "audit walks" on July 17 and August 4 in key downtown commerce and outdoor dining areas, on which they encountered A-frame signs, fences and other obstacles to persons with disabilities which are in violation of current codes and ordinances. Ernie has reinforced with proprietors that such obstacles must be removed and has also instructed city personnel to be vigilant in removing these obstacles. The café ordinance is being redrafted to include key recommendations by the Committee and will also carry increased fines and penalties to proprietors for noncompliance. The A4A Committee is hopeful that a revised ordinance will be in place by winter, allowing enough time for downtown restaurants to become compliant by the 2016 spring outdoor dining season. As next steps, A4A Committee members will be looking into new pedestrian signals that will be audible and more user-friendly for the mobility-impaired. They will also attempt to schedule another "audit walk" in the evening to assess dinnertime crowd compliance along Bedford Street.
5. Marty reported that an evaluation committee will be selecting from two RFP responses this week to conduct the audit of city programs, properties and services. He will be working with the Mayor in the coming weeks to develop a proposed budget request for next year on behalf of the A4A Committee. This will be discussed at our October meeting.

6. Libby and Kris will be putting together a proposed calendar to publicize A4A Committee efforts taking place throughout the course of the year. Please share suggested ideas directly with Libby via email. Publicity will be targeted to the Advocate, but also other media outlets that reach a wide variety of audiences. We will develop a boilerplate paragraph that explains what A4A is and also directs people to the website for additional information and resources.
7. Lolli shared recommendations for proposed training ideas. It was agreed that we wait for results from the audit before moving ahead with this aspect of our work. In the meantime, we will seek to provide helpful training tips and resources via the A4A website.
8. Phil brought attention to several issues with local taxi companies denying service to persons with disabilities and those with service animals. It was recommended that he work with the Human Rights Office to file complaints.
9. Next A4A Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, at 12:30pm.